

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5735

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, IR, IZ

SUBJECT: IRAN PRESS REPORTS KURDS EXECUTED IN IRAQ

REF: TEHRAN 1547

1. IT IS UNCLEAR FROM REFTEL WHETHER REPORTED ARRESTS AND EXECUTIONS ARE RECENT EVENTS OR MERELY A COMPILATION OF SUCH INCIDENTS OVER THE PAST MONTHS. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION HERE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT EXECUTIONS. IN THE PAST THE REGIME HAS GIVEN PUBLICITY TO EXECUTIONS OF KURDISH REBELS, PRESUMABLY AS A DETERRENT TO OTHERS. THE AUTHORITIES HAVE ALWAYS SPECIFIED SOME VIOLENT ACT OR INTENDED ACT AS CAUSE FOR DEATH PENALTY. MEMBERSHIP IN KDP IS NEVER CITED. AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, THE ANTI-BARZANI WING OF THE KDP IS POLITICALLY ACTIVE HERE IN THE POPULAR FRONT.

2. ARRESTS PROBABLY CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE, ALTHOUGH LOCAL RUMORS ARE NOT NEARLY AS CONCRETE AS WOULD BE SUGGESTED BY STORY IN KEYHAN. THE FIGURE OF 90 JAILED SUPPORTERS IS ONE WE HEARD LAST SUMMER, AND WE ARE NOT

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SURE OF HOW CURRENT OR ACCURATE ARE SUCH REPORTS FROM KURDISH EMIGRE CIRCLES.

3. COMMENT: PUBLICATION OF REPORT IN IRANIAN NEWSPAPER MAY BE RETALIATION FOR PUBLICATION HERE OF NEWS ABOUT RECENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING CLASHES BETWEEN IRANIAN RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND THE AUTHORITIES. IRAQI

REGIME, WHICH TIGHTLY CONTROLS LOCAL MEDIA, COULD HAVE
PUT LID ON SUCH STORIES. LOCAL OBSERVERS WERE SURPRISED
THAT IT DID NOT DO SO AT A TIME WHEN OFFICIAL IRAQI-
IRANIAN RELATIONS SHOW A SURFACE HARMONY.
PECK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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